

# The Monthly Minute

with State Senator John Pappageorge

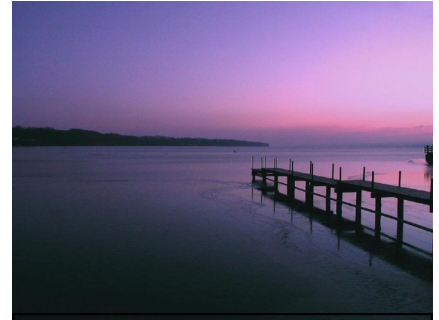
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## Water Protection Legislation Signed into Law

Dear Friend:

Protecting Michigan's precious water resources has been a priority of mine in the Legislature. With an increasing number of thirsty states and countries looking to export Michigan's water, it is more important than ever that we take the necessary precautions to ensure that our water is protected for generations to come.



The landmark water protection package will adopt the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. This compact represents an agreement among the eight partner states and two provinces within the Great Lakes Basin.

### Inside this issue:

#### **Senate Passes Energy Reform Legislation**

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The Great Lakes are the world's largest surface freshwater system, containing 95% of such water in this country. It is a vast drainage basin that reaches from the mouth of the St. Lawrence River to beyond the western edge of Lake Superior near Duluth, Minnesota. The area measures about 900 miles east to west and 700 miles north to south.

#### **Senate Approves Pappageorge Bill to Help Ensure Transportation Dollars Wisely Spent**

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I am pleased to announce that the Legislature passed and the governor signed a comprehensive water protection package recently. The 12-bill package is supported by many organizations, including Michigan United Conservation Clubs, and The Waterworks Coalition, made up of 15 groups including the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

Michigan waters should be used in a manner that protects the environment, yet allows for water to be used wisely in a variety of ways, including helping grow Michigan's economy and keeping job providers in Michigan.

#### **New Law Gives Kids a Boost**

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The measures will adopt the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and implement a new standard for evaluating large quantity water withdrawals, including an automated point-and-click computer tool developed by the Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council. Key changes in the legislation include:

#### **Clawson 4th of July Parade**

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- Creating language to confirm the state's existing rights for water resource management and to protect private property rights;
- Setting adverse resource impact lines for cold water streams at three percent;
- Clarifying the implementation process of the water withdrawal assessment tool; and
- Lowering the water withdrawal permitting threshold to one million gallons a day.

I am pleased to be a part of this historic legislation. It protects water as one of our great natural resources, but also protects the Michigan residents, farmers and businesses that rely on this resource for their economic livelihoods.

Sincerely,

John Pappageorge





## Senate Passes Energy Reform Legislation

The Senate recently took action on a comprehensive energy plan designed to help ensure safe, reliable and affordable energy for Michigan job providers and residents.

Unlike the House plan that called for a \$6-billion to \$8-billion hidden tax on Michigan residents, the Senate plan minimizes the economic impact on residents.

Senate Bill (SB) 213 gives Michigan job providers the flexibility to meet a targeted and integrated renewable energy standard while minimizing potential rate increases.

The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requires 7% of the electricity a business sells to be from renewable resources by the year 2015.

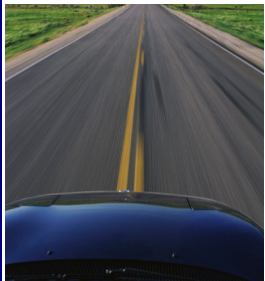
Experts have warned that Michigan's current energy capacity is not enough to meet the state's future energy needs. In order to encourage the construction of

new electrical generators in the state, the Senate also passed House Bill (HB) 5524, which fixes P.A. 141 of 2000.

Both SB 213 and HB 5524 will now advance to the House of Representatives for consideration.



## Senate Approves Pappageorge Bill to Help Ensure Transportation Funds Spent Wisely



The Senate recently approved legislation to help ensure that the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) uses competi-

tive bidders with a proven track record on projects exceeding \$1 million.

Senate Bill 1320, sponsored by Pappageorge, will require MDOT to contract with pre-qualified private sector bidders on road projects totaling more than \$1 million.

"The state shouldn't use contractors that may perform shoddy work," Pappageorge said. "When dealing with such a large monetary amount the department should contract with companies that have a history of getting the job done right and on time."

MDOT uses four major factors to pre-qualify a bidder:

- Financial resources and related information;
- Experience, including that of key personnel on work of a similar nature;
- Past performance; and
- Availability of equipment and facilities proposed for use on the

department's work.

The department then rates the bidders, assigning a higher rating to those who scored well. Those who score poorly are not pre-qualified bidders.

"It's simply common sense," Pappageorge said. "Michigan is facing tough economic times and we need to make certain that state funds are wisely spent on properly completed projects. I'm glad to see my bill approved."

SB 1320 will now advance to the House of Representatives for consideration

# Tracking Legislation

[www.legislature.michigan.gov](http://www.legislature.michigan.gov)

If you are interested in learning more about any of the proposals I discuss in my newsletters, visit [www.legislature.michigan.gov](http://www.legislature.michigan.gov). This is the official legislative website for tracking, analyzing and reviewing legislation.

## New Law Gives Kids a “Boost”

When traveling with kids, there's no cargo more precious than our children. I supported Senate legislation now passed into law that helps parents give their kids a “boost” to help keep them safer on the road.

As of July 1, 2008, Public Act 43 of 2008 requires that all children under the age of eight, who are shorter than 4 feet 9 inches tall, be securely fastened in a booster seat while riding in a car or truck. Michigan now joins 38 other states with this expanded child seat law.

Most people know that child safety seats are required for infants and toddlers, but many parents are unaware of Michigan's new booster seat requirement for older kids.

More than 90 percent of children 4 - 8 years old, who are seriously injured in auto accidents aren't restrained in a booster seat. Yet the use of a booster seat with a seat belt instead of a seat belt alone reduces a child's risk of injury by nearly 60 percent.

In a crash, safety belts that are designed for adults can contribute significantly to a child's injuries. A child sits higher with a booster seat, so the seat belt fits properly and provides better protection.

The good news is that booster seats are readily available at most stores and often provided free of charge to those in need. The best news is that **using a booster seat immediately increases child safety.**

For more information about booster seats, visit [www.michigansafekids.org](http://www.michigansafekids.org).



## DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2005, more than 7,000 Michigan children under age 16 were injured, and 84 children were killed in crashes.
- More than 90 percent of children between 4 and 8 years old who are seriously injured in auto accidents aren't restrained in a booster seat.
- Using a booster seat with a seat belt instead of a seat belt alone reduces a child's risk of injury by nearly 60 percent.
- Children in states with booster seat laws are 39 percent more likely to be restrained in a booster seat.
- Michigan joins 38 other states with an expanded booster seat law.
- For more information on booster seats, visit [www.michigansafekids.org](http://www.michigansafekids.org).



# Clawson 4th of July Parade



Senator Pappageorge and his volunteers participated in the annual Clawson 4th of July parade to celebrate our country's independence.



## Questions or Comments?



If you have any questions or comments regarding information in this newsletter, or wish to be removed from or added to the mailing list, please contact my office at the following information:

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